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COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to direct the Department of Energy to immediately release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and to temporarily suspend the purchase of oil for the SPR.

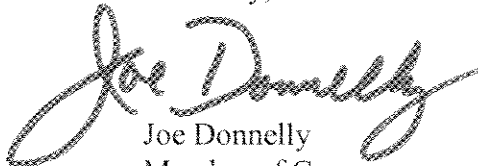
Earlier this year, oil topped \$110 per barrel and gas prices hit \$4 per gallon. Previous oil price spikes have come in the summer, and already by April working families had to make tough decisions as gas prices approach the all-time high. By releasing oil from the SPR to the market, we can drive down oil prices and provide families struggling to fill their tanks much needed relief at the pump.

An SPR drawdown not only helps working families, it also stimulates our economy. With a decrease in oil prices, Americans are able to spend their money on other goods and services and American businesses can make investments by hiring workers and purchasing equipment.

Currently just under its maximum capacity of 727 million barrels, the SPR is the world's largest government-owned petroleum reserve. While keeping the several volatile situations in the Middle East in mind, I believe a release of oil from the SPR and a suspension of its refill would benefit our economy at a time when energy prices are hampering its recovery from the worst recession in 80 years.

I thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

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